

A TRAVELING MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION



# About Hunger & Resilience

PHOTOGRAPHS AND AUDIO STORIES

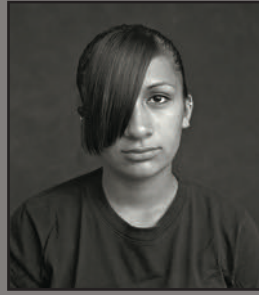
BY MICHAEL NYE



"Andy"

**Marise McDermott -- *President & CEO, Witte Museum***

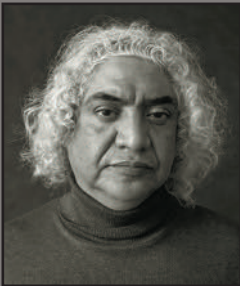
"Michael Nye has put a face on hunger in America and given a voice to those who have none. His powerful and passionate narrative emerges from his close work with each of the participants, both through their recorded interviews and their photographic portraits. There is no doubt that visitors walk away not merely informed, but changed. The tears come not from sadness, but from overwhelming comprehension."



# About Hunger & Resilience

MULTIMEDIA PHOTOGRAPHY AND AUDIO EXHIBITION

In Michael Nye's exhibition *About Hunger & Resilience*, so much comes to light. The fifty portraits and audio stories reveal the courage and fragility of those individuals who have experienced hunger. In simple, eloquent detail, these voices and images draw you closer into their lives. For the past 4 ½ years, Michael has been listening and asking questions about hunger. Why does it happen? What can we learn? These diverse audio narratives take us underneath complicated issues where empathy and understanding begin. Each face, each voice invites you to listen.





"Elsa"

**Eric Cooper -- *Executive Director, San Antonio Food Bank***

"I have never before seen an exhibit like this. These are stories I cannot forget. I carry them with me. This exhibition will invite communities to a deeper experience around the issue of hunger. Food banks and other organizations working to eradicate hunger can use this work as an opportunity to find strategies toward solutions. In some ways, everyone that comes to the exhibit will experience a bit of hunger. They will hunger to learn more. This work is for everyone. It is tremendously powerful."



## ARTIST'S STATEMENT

This exhibition is about the experience of hunger. The stories are not intended to summarize or explain anyone's life. There are too many ways a voice can turn. Many of the people I met have struggled to find the right words to describe the weight of responsibility, loss, kindness and dignity.

After spending 4 ½ years traveling around this country, listening, the reasons for hunger are not so simple: mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction, severe physical injuries, old age, lack of education, job loss, mistakes, teenage pregnancy, health related illnesses, crime, sexual abuse, incarceration, chance, natural disasters, war, childhood neglect and generational poverty. Explanations and solutions are profoundly complex.

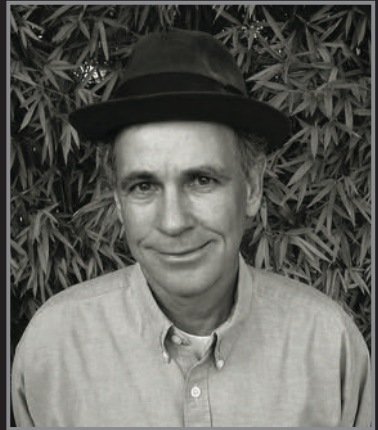
People die and no one remembers their stories. Everyone in this exhibit knows something important and valuable, a wisdom about their experience that only they know. The fifty individuals represented in this exhibit are teachers - and we are students. Stories are places where empathy and understanding begin.

I have felt with even a greater conviction that we all need to speak of the essential needs of our human family, and grow in our understanding of how difficult life is for so many in our country. These stories are about all of us as we live with our uncertainties and the realization that we too could experience hunger.

Listening is another way of seeing. It has been a privilege to have these passionate conversations. It has changed me. I tried to honor each story by being faithful to its spirit and the way it was spoken. Hunger is an issue of human rights. Everyone has the right to be heard, to be listened to, and to receive help when hungry.

MICHAEL NYE

**Michael Nye** practiced law for 10 years before pursuing photography full time. Recipient of a Mid-America National Endowment for the Arts grant in photography, and a Kronkosky Foundation grant, he participated in two Arts America tours in the Middle East and Asia, and has exhibited and lectured widely in museums and universities, including Morocco, India and Mexico. His photography and audio exhibitions, "Children of Children" (stories of teenage pregnancy) and "Fine Line" (Mental Health/Mental Illness) have traveled to over 140 cities in the United States and continue to tour.



## **Exhibition Can Be Installed in Any Space – On Walls or Easels:**

### **Technical**

There are 50 portraits and 50 audio stories. Mounted below each portrait is a wooden box containing an audio player and headphones. The stories range from 4 to 6 minutes each. Many sites have used this exhibit as the centerpiece for related programming including, lectures, student field trips, radio and other educational and fundraising activities.

### **Installation**

This exhibit can be installed on walls in formal museums and galleries - or anywhere with the optional easel installation. The easel installation has been designed to hold the photographs, lights and audio components and have been installed in universities, libraries, community centers, food banks and conferences.

### **Photographs & Audio**

All photographs are made using an 8 x 10 view camera. Photographs are black & white silver darkroom prints. Each image is mounted on 24" x 30" archival board and framed. I met with each person over a period of two to four days and the stories were edited/mastered with the approval of each participant.

### **Cost & Availability**

Contact Michael Nye • [michaelnye.org](http://michaelnye.org) • 210.476.0497 • [michaelnye@aol.com](mailto:michaelnye@aol.com)  
Promotional packets DVD/video available upon request.